

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Tyler Sisk on June 3, 2008.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1, line10, the phrase "connecting said oligonucleotide synthesizer to a ventilation system connected to" has been changed to --connecting said oligonucleotide synthesizer ventilation system to--.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 31 and 32 are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 31 recites a method for decreasing the quantity of vapor emissions created during the use of an oligonucleotide synthesizer. The method includes (a) providing an oligonucleotide synthesizer having a reaction chamber, lid enclosure, and a ventilation system in the lid that may be opened to permit an operator's hands to enter the reaction chamber; (b) connecting the oligonucleotide synthesizer ventilation system to a source

of negative pressure or vacuum; and (c) operating the source of negative pressure only when the lid enclosure is in the open position. The Examiner considers Natterer to be the closest prior art. Natterer teaches a device for packaging materials having a lid with a ventilation system that operates when the lid is opened. Natterer does not teach an oligonucleotide synthesizer.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DWAYNE K. HANDY whose telephone number is (571)272-1259. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill Warden can be reached on (571)-272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1797

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jill Warden/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1797

/Dwayne K Handy/
Examiner, Art Unit 1797
June 3, 2008